

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1 and 3-12 are pending in the application. Claims 1 and 9 are amended by the present amendment. Support for amended independent Claims 1 and 9 can be found in the original specification, claims and drawings.<sup>1</sup> No new matter is presented.

In the outstanding Official Action, Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,708,780 to Levergood et al. (hereinafter Levergood) and further in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0032027 A1 to Kirani.

The outstanding Official Action rejected Claims 1-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as unpatentable over Levergood in view of Kirani. The Official Action cites Levergood as disclosing the Applicant's invention with the exception of the client being a "mobile information terminal" and wherein "said unique identification information stored in said mobile information terminal and comprises information identifying a manufacturer of the mobile information terminal."<sup>2</sup> The Official Action cites Kirani as disclosing this claimed feature and states it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine the teachings of the cited references to arrive at the Applicant's claims.

In response to this rejection, Applicant respectfully submits that amended independent Claims 1 and 9 recite novel features clearly not taught or rendered obvious by the applied references.

Amended independent Claim 1 relates to an authentication server which executes user authentication between a mobile information terminal and a content providing server connected by a data network. In advance of authentication, unique identification information

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<sup>1</sup> e.g., specification, p. 18.

<sup>2</sup> Official Action, p. 6.

stored in the mobile information terminal is registered with a customer database of an authentication server *from a device other than the mobile information terminal*.

Specifically, amended independent Claim 1 recites, in part, a user authentication method comprising:

registering, *from a device other than the mobile information terminal*, unique identification information corresponding to the hardware of said mobile information terminal with a customer database of said authentication server in advance...

Independent Claim 9, when directed to an alternative statutory embodiment, is amended to recite substantially similar features. Accordingly, the arguments presented below are applicable to each of independent Claims 1 and 9.

As disclosed at p. 18 of the specification, the user registration with the client service provider may be made from a personal computer, and not from the mobile information terminal that is being registered. This type of registration is permitted in the system because the registration process requires the user to enter many characters, which may be a difficult task from a mobile terminal.

In addressing the “registering” feature recited in independent Claim 1, the Official Action relies on col. 3, lines 21-43 of Levergood. This cited portion of Levergood describes that a client request is made with a URL, and without a SID, from a web browser to an access controlled file at a server. The server then subjects the client to an authorization routine prior to issuing the SID by directing the request to an authentication server.

Levergood, however, fails to teach or suggest that the client device may be registered from a device other than the client terminal. Specifically, Levergood fails to teach or suggest registering, *from a device other than the mobile information terminal*, unique identification information corresponding to the hardware of said mobile information terminal with a

customer database of said authentication server in advance, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

In contrast, the above noted cited portion of Levergood describes that a user is issued a SID based on a client request with an associated URL from a Web browser, and subsequent authentication with an authentication server. The interaction with the authentication server requires interaction with the client terminal and results in the issuance of a SID, which “typically comprises” a user identifier, accessible domain, a key identifier, expiration time, the IP address of the client, and an “unforgettable digital signature” associated with the client. Thus, it would not be possible for a device, other than the client terminal itself, to perform this authentication procedure with the authorization server.

Accordingly, Levergood fails to teach or suggest fails to teach or suggest that the client device may be registered to receive a SID from a device other than the client terminal. More specifically, Levergood fails to teach or suggest registering, *from a device other than the mobile information terminal*, unique identification information corresponding to the hardware of said mobile information terminal with a customer database of said authentication server in advance, as recited in amended independent Claim 1.

Likewise, Kirani is relied upon only to assert the existence of an identification code in a mobile device and fails to remedy the above noted deficiency in Levergood. Therefore, none of the cited references, neither alone nor in combination teach or suggest Applicant’s Claims 1 and 3-12 which include the above distinguished limitations by virtue of independent recitation or dependency.

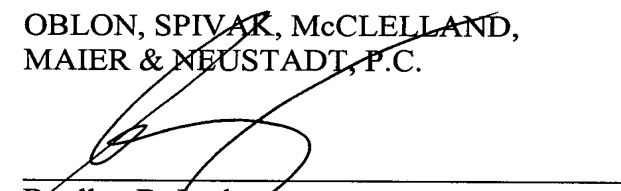
Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests that the rejection of Claims 1 and 3-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 be withdrawn.

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Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the foregoing comments, it is respectfully submitted that the invention defined by Claims 1 and 3-12 is patentably distinguishing over the applied references. The present application is therefore believed to be in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable reconsideration of the application is therefore requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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